Backlog of vacancies in safety category

457. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level meeting was convened in the wake of a series of railway accidents recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and conclusion arrived at;

(c) whether it is *also a fact that it was revealed in the course of discussion that there was a huge backlog of vacancies in the safety category; and

(d) if so, the zone-wise details of such vacancies and steps being taken to fill up the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b)Yes Sir, a special meeting of General Managers of Zonal Railways on safety was held on 8.1.03. Detailed issues pertaining of safety were deliberated upon and the following major decisions were taken:—

(i) Enhanced financial powers to the General Managers for faster implementation of safety works.

(ii) Intensive supervision and control by the General Managers and the Divisional Railway Managers.

(iii) More effective and intensive inspections at all levels.

(iv) Decision to make safety wing organisation broad as recommended by the Railway Safety Review Committee.

(v) Empowering Safety Officers to recommend punishments on the lines of the Vigilance advice.

(vi) Installation of Anti Collision Device (ACD) on successful completion of trials.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The information regarding the number of vacancies as on 01.01.2003 in the safety categories is being collected and will be placed

on the Table of the Sabha. In order to ensure that vacancies do not remain unfilled especially in safety categories, the extant procedure provides for laying down an annual calendar/schedule in advance for conducting selections/suitability/trade tests to fill up vacancies on a regular basis.The position is reviewed and monitored at various levels. However, since occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process a certain number of vacancies may exist it this continuous process. Intensive efforts are made to fill up the vacancies promptly.

Bifurcation of Ahmedabad Rail Division

458. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision to create a new Division of Ahmedabad from 1st April, 2003 would reduce the area of Rajkot Division to only 637 RTKMs;

(b) whether it is a fact that if the above decision is implemented it would involve large-scale transfer of employees from Rajkot Division;

(c) whether the Railways would be required to spend additional Rs. 1.26 crores by way of house rent allowance to employees as there is no quarter facility at Ahmedabad; and

(d) whether the Kanalus-Porbander and Rajkot-Veraval sectors can be transferred to Rajkot Division from Bhavnagar to have an area of 922 RTKMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Transfer of staff will be based on options given by them for transfer to new Divisional Headquarter.

(c) The options of staff for transfer to the newly created Ahmedabad Division from other Divisions/Zones is under process. Enough people are expected to opt for the new Division. As the process has not yet been completed, it is not possible to project the additional expenditure on account of House Rent Allowance at this stage.

(d) No, Sir.